

# **EVs: The Beneficial Electrification of Transportation Policy Session**



**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020**

**1:00 PM – 4:05 PM**

**ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

**MAIN HEARING ROOM**

**160 N. LA SALLE ST., 8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, CHICAGO, IL 60601**



### **Britta Gross**

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Britta Gross is the Managing Director of Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)'s mobility practice, which is focused on market-driven strategies, technologies and policies required to accelerate towards a carbon-free mobility future. Ms. Gross was formerly with General Motors where she led efforts to drive the commercialization of GM's electric battery and fuel cell vehicle programs. Britta holds numerous board seats and is also concurrently a Commissioner for the Orlando Utility Commission, Orlando's electric and water utility. Ms. Gross has received numerous industry awards including Automotive News' "Electrifying 100", the 2013 GreenBiz "Verge 25" award, and speaks regularly to national audiences on topics related to alternative fuels in transportation.



### **Daniel Bowermaster**

Program Manager, Electric Transportation  
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Dan Bowermaster is the Program Manager for Electric Transportation at EPRI where his team does research, development, demonstration and analysis of EVs, charging infrastructure, grid impact, environmental impact, and customer preferences. He has an MBA from Wharton and a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Davis. Dan grew up in northwestern coastal California, has moved 25 times since high school, and now lives in San Francisco with his wife, three young kids, and a dog.



## **Nick Nigro**

Founder, Atlas Public Policy  
Senior Advisor, Alliance for Transportation  
Electrification  
Washington, D.C.  
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Nick Nigro is the founder of Atlas Public Policy. Nick has over 15 years of experience managing projects of various disciplines, size, and scope. He is a nationally known expert on alternative fuel vehicle financing, policy, and technology. He has led the development of several complex financial and policy analysis tools, convened large groups of diverse stakeholders nationwide, managed a comprehensive analysis of greenhouse gas mitigation from U.S. transportation, is a frequent public speaker on advanced vehicle technology and other transportation-related energy and environmental issues, and has expert knowledge in web and other computer-related technology. Nick holds a Master's of Public Policy from the University of California Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy and a Bachelor's of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.



## **Alex Keros**

Lead Architect, EV Infrastructure | AV / EV Programs |  
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As the transportation landscape continues to change, Alex Keros, Lead Architect – EV Charging, is helping General Motors improve the electric vehicle consumer experience. In his role, he identifies and facilitates partnerships with key stakeholders such as EV charging companies, utility companies, policymakers and others to find the best solutions. Having joined the team after his role as Smart Cities Chief at Maven, Alex has extensive experience bringing together various stakeholders to create mobility solutions. His unique skill in balancing energy policy, environmental engineering and business strategy has given him an innovative toolbox to tap into to electrify mobility.

Alex earned his Bachelor's of Science in Natural Resource Management and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Michigan.



**Kate Tomford**

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Kate Tomford is a Senior Analyst in the Finance Department at the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), where she manages and supports energy-related initiatives including energy efficiency, electric buses, and utility cost management. Prior to working at the CTA, Kate served as an energy and environmental policy advisor at the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and in the Illinois Governor's Office. Kate holds a Master's of Science in Environmental Science & Policy from the University of Chicago Harris School and an AB in Earth & Planetary Sciences from Harvard University.



**Phil Jones**

Executive Director, Alliance for Transportation  
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Philip B. Jones is currently the president of Phil Jones Consulting LLC, where he provides consulting services to the energy industry. Jones serves on the Advisory Council of EPRI (EPRI AC) which reviews the R&D programs of the Electric Power Research Institute; he also is a Member of the Western Grid Group (WGG), which focuses on the promotion of clean energy resources in the Western Interconnection; and he is serving as the executive director of the Alliance For Transportation Electrification.

Jones previously served as a Commissioner on the Washington State Public Utilities Commission, was the past President of NARUC (National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners), and presently serves on its Board of Directors. He previously chaired and served on the Board of Directors of NRRI (National Regulatory Research Institute).





**Dr. Elizabeth Kócs**

Director, Partnerships & Strategy, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Energy Initiative  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Executive Energy Leader 2019  
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Dr. Elizabeth A. Kócs is an environment-behavior scientist at the intersection of social, economic, policy, and technological advances in energy, sustainability and urban resilience. At the UIC Energy Initiative, she has a strong focus on energy and technology for transportation, the electrical grid and smart cities. As a National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Energy Executive Leader, she works closely with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) to leverage expertise, tools and resources across research, public and private entities to develop benchmarking and strategic analytics for addressing climate-related energy and transportation challenges. Dr. Kócs is a founding leader of the Center for Urban Resilience and Environmental Sustainability (CURES), a University of Illinois collaborative focused on providing cities with knowledge and pathways for achieving climate resilience. Dr. Kócs earned a Bachelor's of Architecture from Pratt Institute, an Executive MBA from the University of Illinois, and a PhD from the City University of New York.



**Tim Drea**

President  
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Tim Drea was elected President of the Illinois AFL-CIO in December 2019. Prior to his election as President he served as IL AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer for 12 years. He was also the Legislative and Political Director for Local 881 of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) for 12 years and was a member of the Senate Democratic Staff under Senator Emil Jones, Jr. He joined the

labor movement as a coal miner and a member of the United Mine Workers. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.



**Christie R. Hicks**

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Christie is a Senior Attorney for Environmental Defense Fund in Chicago, Illinois. She has a deep expertise in energy and environmental regulation and is responsible for advancing clean energy and beneficial electrification initiatives in Illinois. Through litigation strategy and policy design, she advocates for accelerated, equitable reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. She is particularly focused on the inter-relatedness of the utility business model, transportation and building electrification, energy efficiency, rate design, and a modernized grid. Christie serves as lead counsel for EDF in Illinois litigation and represents EDF in stakeholder forums. She regularly writes and speaks on clean energy issues. Christie began working in the energy field in 2010, joining Illinois' Citizens Utility Board (CUB) – the state's utility watchdog – where she spent seven years as a utility consumer advocate. In her spare time, Christie is committed to initiatives that promote Women in Energy and STEM fields.



**Mike Raikes**

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Mike Raikes serves as the Business Manager for IBEW Local 197. Mike Raikes honorably served in the United States Marine Corp from 1993-1997. In 2006, he graduated from the Bloomington-Normal Electrical Apprenticeship. In 2019, he became the Business Manager for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 197. He was also named President of Livingston/McLean County Building Trades in 2019.